

## PRAYER

Reverend Darius Pridgen, True Bethel Baptist Church, Buffalo, New York, offered the following prayer:

To the grand architect of the universe, who meticulously and purposefully placed each star and planet into a predestined position in the universe, the results of such methodical placement has caused tranquility in the universe in that Mars does not clash with Jupiter, Venus does not war with Saturn, and the Sun does not compete with the Moon.

As You have done in the universe, You have also done in this House of the people. May those whom You have perfectly placed in these hallowed seats remember they, like the perfectly planned universe, have been placed here by You, not to clash, crash, and war, but to work together for the good of their constituents, the country, the world, and, indeed, the universe.

In the name of the God we serve, amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## WELCOMING REVEREND DARIUS PRIDGEN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Pastor Darius Pridgen to the House of Representatives today from the True Bethel Baptist Church in western New York.

Pastor Pridgen is well known and well respected in our community for his passionate and inspiring leadership. We could all benefit from adopting his style of cooperation and uniting people of different beliefs and ideologies.

His contributions to our region are many. In addition to being a role model, he works through creative ministry to create jobs, to care for those in need, and to influence good in his church and far beyond.

This is most notable by his expansion of True Bethel's reach from east Buffalo into the city of Niagara Falls. Pastor Pridgen is also a family man and

encourages strong families. In addition to his ministry, Pastor Pridgen has served our Nation, as he is a veteran of the United States Air Force, and he currently serves as president of the Buffalo City Council.

Pastor Pridgen is the embodiment of Buffalo's reputation as the City of Good Neighbors, and I am honored to have him here today to represent our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

## WILL GRIER

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Will Grier who, as quarterback of the Davidson Day School, led them to three consecutive championships.

Over his high school career, Will threw for 195 touchdowns, averaged 383 passing yards a game, and once threw 10 touchdown passes in a single game. For his exploits on the field, Will Grier was named Parade Magazine's 2014 All-America Player of the Year and was selected as America's top high school football player by Football USA.

He graduated from high school a semester early and is already attending classes at the University of Florida, where he will continue his football career.

While I congratulate Will for his football accomplishments, I also want to congratulate him for remaining focused off the field. At Davidson Day, he chose to be a positive role model, regularly spending time with younger students and always reading to the elementary classes.

Please join me in congratulating Davidson's and North Carolina's Will Grier for his accomplishments and for his commitment to serving others.

## T.C. GILLESPIE

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend who departed this Earth last week, who I know is headed to glory because of the great things he did in Tarrant County for working men and women.

T.C. Gillespie, who was the president of the Tarrant County Central Labor Council, died after a long battle with lung disease.

T.C. was such a tireless advocate for men and women. Before he was president of the Central Labor Council, he was the treasurer and secretary of the Communications Workers of America.

T.C. just believed in people. He was someone who helped me very early on in my career, before I was in Congress. He helped so many people he believed would do the right thing for so many workers and for so many families in Tarrant County.

Even as I watched T.C. struggle in the last couple of years of his life, I would say: T.C., you don't need to be here; you need to be home resting.

He was having such a hard time walking and breathing because of the lung issue that he was having, and he just wanted to be there for people he believed in.

I want to thank the family and friends he leaves behind. T.C. Gillespie was a dear friend and a great man to so many people in Tarrant County.

## KELLIE HINSHAW

(Mrs. ELLMERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ELLMERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Mrs. Kellie Godwin Hinshaw, who fought and battled cancer until it took her body this week in Dunn, North Carolina. Her spirit will truly live on within all of us.

Kellie was a friend who inspired me in her strength to go forward even on the worst of days. She was a strong, loving, caring woman with an incredible sense of humor. She was a daughter, sister, wife, and mother of two beautiful boys, Kenneth and Kannon.

Kellie had adenoid cystic carcinoma, a rare form of cancer. Despite this terrible disease, Kellie and her family chose to use this as a platform to do good. Kellie's Krew successfully organized and grew a 5K race that has raised well over \$100,000 for adenoid cystic carcinoma research and has brought our whole community together.

Kellie taught our community that "vain" is a four-letter word and that beauty truly comes from within. She will be forever loved by her family, her community, and me.

## AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the most important issue facing our country. Guess what? It has nothing to do with repealing ObamaCare. It is about jobs.

Instead of bringing the American Jobs Act to the floor, an act which would create nearly 2 million new jobs, my Republican colleagues remain obsessed with trying to repeal ObamaCare.

This may be the only job in America at which you can try to do something more than 50 times and still have a job. It is time to move on and pass a bill that will help to create jobs.